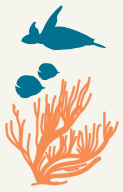
LABASA 1 QOLIQOLI

Habitat type	*Qoliqoli* cover (ha)	Total GSR cover (ha)
Coral Reefs	44 ha	58,800
Mangrove	1,549 ha	34,100
Seagrass	250 ha	17,200

Critical Habitat Cover

Critical ecosystems were surveyed at sites within the *qoliqoli*, including coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass.



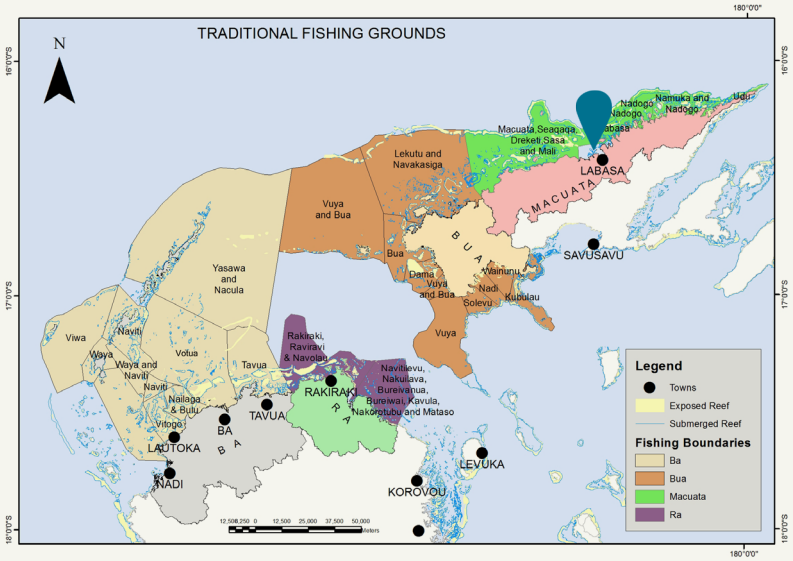
Fiji's GREAT SEA REEF

Fiji's largest reef system, the Great Sea Reef otherwise known locally as Cakaulevu, includes the third largest barrier reef in the world. The Great Sea Reef region stretches along an arc over 450 km long from western Viti Levu to eastern Vanua Levu.

Qoliqoli

Customary fishing areas managed by indigenous communities, centuries old, that grant access and rights to fish. Thirty-three distinct qoliqolis divide the entire Great Sea Reef area.

EXTENT SUMMARY

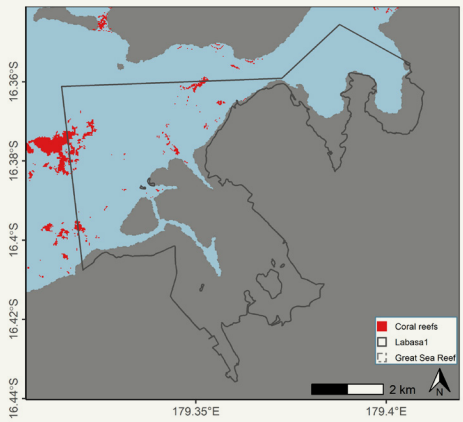


Labasa 1 *qoliqoli* spans 37 km² and is located in northern Macuata Province (on the north coast of Vanua Levu).

The *qoliqoli* is bounded by Qoliqoli Cokovata to the north and east, and Wailevu to the west. Labasa 1 does not extend far offshore into the lagoon, with Mali Island lying to the north and outside the *qoliqoli* boundary.

Because Labasa 1 sits adjacent to Vanua Levu and extensive river and mangrove systems, there is sedimentation impact across the entire *qoliqoli*.

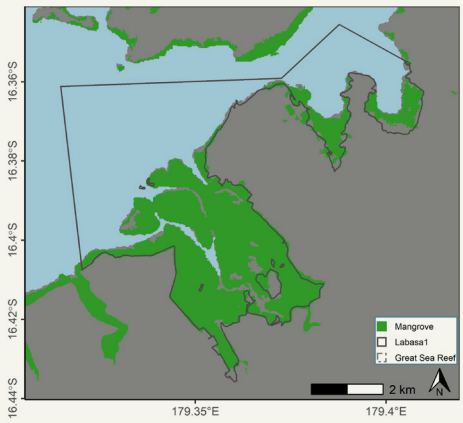
Coral Reefs



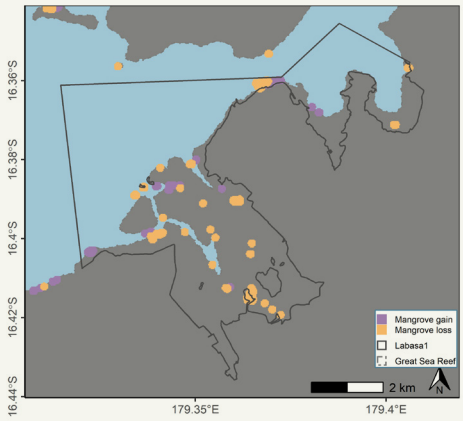
- Few developed reefs, but shallow patch reefs that rise up within the lagoon in the north/center of the *qoliqoli*.
- *Coral cover*: approximately 44 ha; 71 ha including reef related ecosystems (e.g. algae, microalgal mats, rock, rubble).
- *Reef types*: majority are terrestrial reef flats (344 ha) and reef crests (21 ha), with few other reef types present.

Reef type	Area (ha)
Reef crest	21
Terrestrial reef flat	344

Mangroves

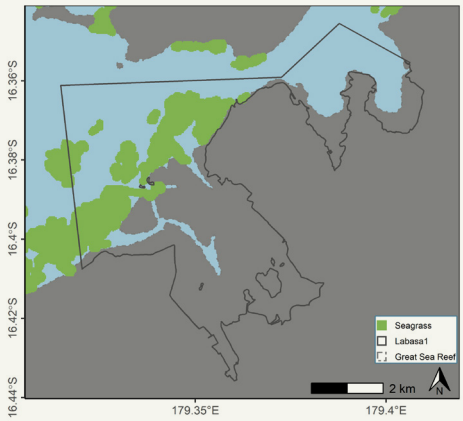


- Mangrove forests form a substantial part of the *qoliqoli* area and form a dense forest between the coast and Labasa city.
- *2016 mangrove extent*: 1,549 ha



- *Mangrove change*: With 1,555 ha recorded in 1996, there was a net loss of 5.75 ha up to 2016. However, this hides that there has been more mangrove change. Between 1996 and 2016, 8.55 ha of mangroves were lost, while mangroves expanded to cover 2.80 ha of area previously barren.

Seagrass



- Most of the *qoliqoli's* seagrass is situated across the shallow seabed in the center of the areas.
- Seagrass covers approximately 250 ha

Management RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expansion of protected areas and other effective conservation measures (OECMs)
2. Develop specific rare/ endangered wildlife species conservation programs
3. Improve sustainable fisheries management
4. Promote incentives and livelihoods approaches that support sustainability/ conservation
5. Strengthen customary and state governance systems for formal/ informal management approaches
6. Increase cross-institution coordination
7. Develop sustainable financing plans/ mechanisms for conservation
8. Instigate legal protection for mangroves and restore where needed
9. Assess/mitigate environmental impacts of land-based activities
10. Assess/mitigate environmental impacts from coastal resource extraction
11. Promote sustainable coastal development
12. Establish regular monitoring/ evaluation for adaptive management

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE ANDRADI-BROWN D.A., VEVERKA L., FREE B., RALIFO A., AREKI F. (2020) STATUS AND TRENDS OF CORAL REEFS AND ASSOCIATED COASTAL HABITATS IN FIJI'S GREAT SEA REEF. WORLD WILDLIFE FUND US, WWF-PACIFIC PROGRAMME, AND MINISTRY OF FISHERIES FIJI. WASHINGTON, D.C. & SUVA. DOI: 10.6084/M9.FIGSHARE.13228910 OR CONTACT INFOR@WWFPACIFIC.ORG